R&D activties for development and marketing of diversified jute products to suit consumer preference abroad[1]. A High Powered Committee has been established to sutdy the matter at length with the objective of modernisation, diversification and export) promotion of jute products. multi-dimensional activities have been undertaken for promotion of jute exports including participation in international fairs, organising buyers' -sellers' meets, commissioning of market studies liaising with importers and enidl-uSers and conducting publicity campaigns. In addition, exports have been promoted through extension of marketing assistance and linking of DGS&D orders for supply of jute bags with export obligation.

Income criterion for determining poverty line

*469. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commis sion has assessed that a per capita annual income level of Rs. 11060 should now be considered! as the criterion -for determining poverty line as against Rs. 6400 at 1985 rates; and

(b) if so, how far the present esti-nation that the percentage of people iving below the poverty line has ieclined from 37 per cent to 25 per :ent, is correct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP *THE* MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENT-VTION AND MINISTER OF &TA-"E IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-ONVENTTONAL ENERGY SOUR-ES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The lanning Commission have updated ae poverty line of Rs. 6400 per annum per household (in rural areas) at 1984-85 prices to Rs. 11060 per annum per household at 1991-92 prices.

(b) The percentage of people below the ' poverty line is estimated to have declined from 37.4 per cent of total population in 1983-84 to 29.9 per cent in 1987-88 even after adjusting the poverty line for price rise. The figure of 25.8 per cent was only an expectation of poverty level to be achieved in 1989-90 as mentioned in the Seventh Plan document prepared in 1985.

Time-barred amnesty scheme for firms

*470. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE. AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have shelved its plan to announce a time-barred amnesty scheme for firms guilty of violating the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so) the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when Government would take a decision to announce the plan?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUS-TICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAY A BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the Company Law Advisory Committee held on 18-1-1991,, it was suggested that companies which have not filed balance sheets/annual ret* urns for the last three years be allowed to do so on payment of a compounding fee. The suggestion involved belated filing of documents and condonation of delay as also withdrawal of prosecution cases filed^ if any. As per Section 621-A of the Companies Act, 1956, inserted by the Companies (Amendment) Act 1988, certain offences (not being an offence punishable with imprison-. ment only) are compoundable by